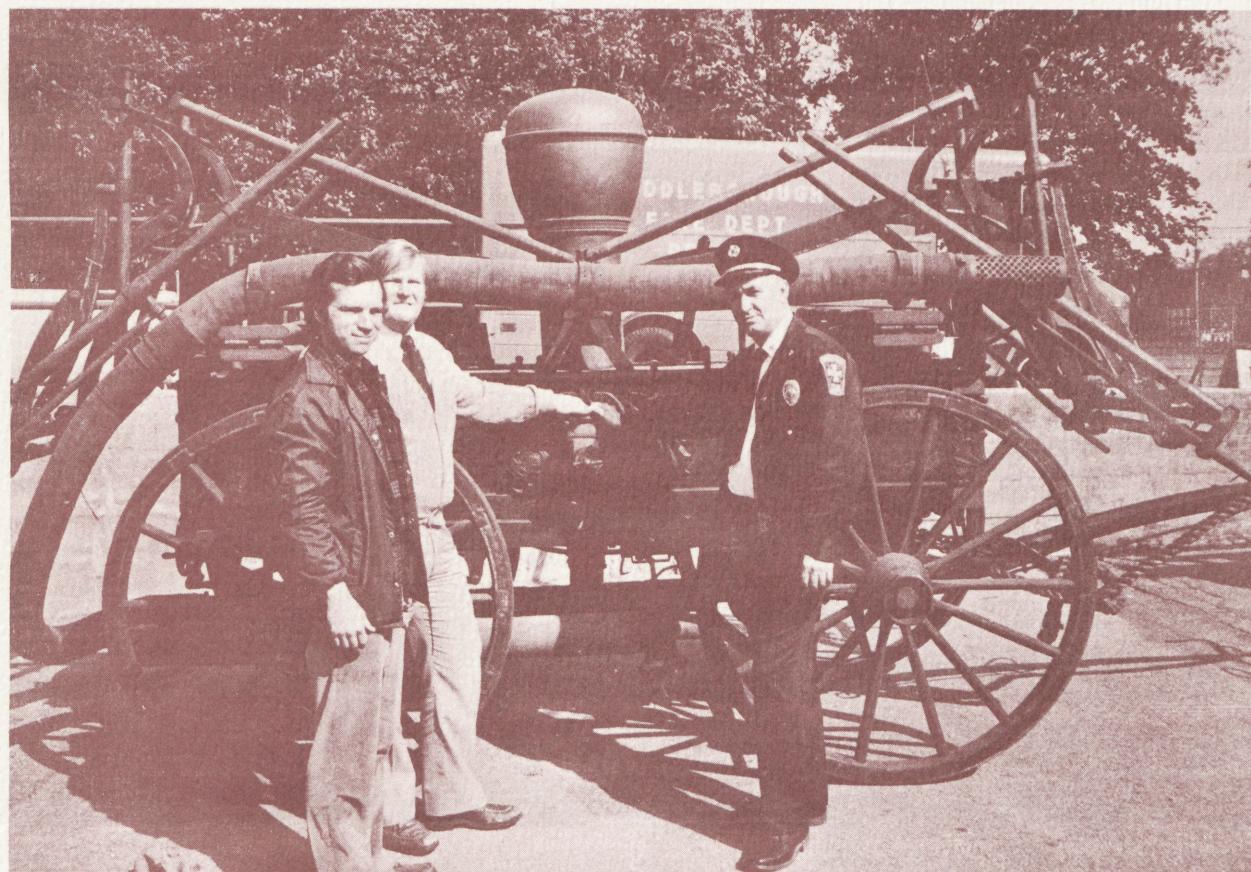


MIDDLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
MIDDLEBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL REPORT

1979 - 1980

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The past year has been one of challenge and accomplishment for the Middleborough Historical Association. During the fall the acquisition of the Young Mechanic, climaxing a long period of negotiation, saw the return of Middleborough's oldest extant piece of fire apparatus. Plans are now underway to restore the engine and house it on the grounds of the museum.

We were all shocked by the January 6, 1980 break-in at the museum during which many valuable silver and gold items from the Tom Thumb Collection were stolen. More than the monetary loss, the disappearance of these items meant a permanent loss to the heritage of Middleborough. It was this loss, however, which was to inspire us toward the year's greatest accomplishment.

A capital fund drive had been previously discussed by the Association's executive board and as a result of the January 6, 1980 break-in a drive was formally announced at our February meeting. Fund drive chairman Ted Pratt guided the effort with skill and due to the wholehearted support of both the membership and the community over \$5,000.00 was raised. This more than offset the cost of a fire and security system.

As the first step in a continued revitalization effort the board of the Association has authorized the repainting of the museum buildings. It is hoped that each year we will be able to undertake a significant major repair to our museum complex. Beginning with the exterior, we hope to be able to move inside and to refurbish some of our excellent displays.

All in all 1979-1980 has been a very good year for the Association. We have acquired significant additions to our museum collection while raising, through the generosity of our members and friends, the funds necessary to install a security system. We look forward to next year with a feeling of accomplishment and optimism.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK E. EAYRS, JR., President

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSEUM CURATOR

Two of the prized possessions of the Middleborough Historical Museum have been enjoyed by a great many people far removed from the museum. As part of special exhibits, these have been on loan to the Brockton Art Complex and the New York Historical Society. The Brockton Art Complex held an exhibition of early American furniture made in Plymouth County which included the "Great Weston Chair" made in the 1600's by Ephraim Tinkham, II of Plymouth. This chair descended in the Weston family from the 1600's in Duxbury to the 1900's in Middleborough, and was given by Mrs. Frank Winthrop to the Middleborough Historical Museum. The second item was a tiny silver coach and horse made by Tiffany's of New York and given to General and Mrs. Tom Thumb as a wedding present. It was exhibited in New York at the New York Historical Society in connection with the promotion of a book written by Charles Carpenter on Tiffany silver.

We let the little coach go to New York with some reluctance, fearing for its safety, but it proved to be a fortunate turn of events because soon after it was sent away, vandals broke into the museum and much of the Tom Thumb Collection was stolen.

Mr. G. Merle Barr of Wareham has made and presented to the museum two glass cases to hold two of Mrs. Tom Thumb's little dresses worn when she was young. Mr. Barr gave these in memory of his mother and grandmother, Blanche (Packard) Barr and Isobel (Newcombe) Barr.

Mr. L. Charles Judge presented a framed letter dated June 20, 1812 from Judge Wilkes Wood of Middleborough to Moses Strong, Esquire of Rutland, Vermont. This has been hung in the Judge Wilkes Wood law office.

Two large framed pictures of the first mechanical cranberry picker being used by the late Paul Thompson on his Middleborough bog were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Richmond. Mrs. Richmond is the daughter of Mr. Thompson. These pictures were used on the cover of an issue of the Middleborough Antiquarian and aroused considerable interest.

An important gift to the museum was brought about through the efforts of our president, Frederick E. Eayrs, Jr., an antique double deck hand tub, built in 1854 for use in New Bedford, but saw several years service in Middleborough. It was presented to the museum by the owner, Mr. Franklin Reed of Abington, Massachusetts.

Interesting people have visited the museum during the year: Robert Pelton, Curator of the P. T. Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and with him A. H. Saxon, who edited and published the "Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb," a manuscript owned by the New York Historical Society; school classes from Middleborough and Lakeville; local nursing homes and from the Kimwell Nursing Home from Fall River; all appreciative visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

MERTIE E. ROMAINE, Curator
Middleborough Historical Museum

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

1979 - 1980

The following is the list of officers that have served the Association for the past year:

President	Frederick E. Eayrs, Jr.
Vice President	Thomas A. Maddigan
Secretary	Miss Ruth Gates
Treasurer	Kenneth E. Butler
Directors	Joseph Sinauski (Term expires in 1980)
	A. Kingman Pratt (Term expires in 1981)
	Edward M. Pratt (Term expires in 1982)
Membership Secretary	Miss Ruth Gates
Program Chairman	A. Kingman Pratt
Refreshments Chairwomen	Mrs. Andrea Eayrs Mrs. Susan Maddigan

The programs for the last year have been excellent. In November, the program on fire engines, presented by member Mr. Robert Beals was most interesting. His presentation on the history of fire engines, going all the way back to 1859 and brought right up to date with the Maxim Fire Apparatus Co. right here in Middleborough was very well received by all.

In February, Mr. Donald Shaw of the Tremont Nail Company in Wareham, gave another fine lecture for all to enjoy. He traced the history of the company from the beginning when Jared and Isaac Pratt of North Middleborough started making nails there in 1819. This company manufactures cut nails and has only one competitor in Virginia.

In April, we had a change from our usual program in having Mr. Francis Beary of Bridgewater present a program on his travels in Greece and Turkey. His lecture on his slides included a great deal of Biblical history. He showed beautiful

pictures of mosques, cathedrals with mosaic work, ruins of 5,000 years ago in Crete. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this lecture.

Mr. Eayrs, President, appointed a nominating committee in April to bring in a slate of officers at the annual meeting on June 2 at the Riverside Restaurant. They are as follows:

A. Kingman Pratt, Chairman
Henry Humphreys
Weston Eayrs

The offices to be filled this year are President for two years, Vice President for two years, Secretary for one year, Treasurer for one year and two Directors for three years.

Any changes of address for either the membership list or the Antiquarian subscriptions should be sent to me as I handle all the mailing now.

I would like to thank all the officers and members of the Association for all your help during the last year. I appreciate all of this and hope I can continue to serve you to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

RUTH GATES, Secretary

May 1, 1980

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

1979 - 1980

During the last year we have lost nine of our members who have been called to rest:

Mr. Julian Witbeck of Lakeville, Massachusetts
Mr. Harold Hart of South Yarmouth, Massachusetts
Miss Florence Davis of Chatham, Massachusetts
Mr. Thomas V. Maddigan of Santa Ana, California
Mr. Alvin J. Bissonnette of Halifax, Massachusetts
Mrs. Paul C. Leonard of Lakeville, Massachusetts
Mr. Elwyn B. Lynde of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mr. Harmon P. Ward of St. Petersburg, Florida
Mrs. M. Josephine Rockwell of Middleborough, Massachusetts

This is the list of new members who have joined since the annual meeting in 1979.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Duquette of Somerset, Massachusetts
Mr. Albert Perkins of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mrs. Margaret Dube of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mr. Robert Martin of Lakeville, Massachusetts
Mrs. Ruth I. Gomes of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mrs. Paul Malcolm of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Pratt of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mrs. Janet Trowbridge of Middleboorugh, Massachusetts
Mr. Albert W. Bates of Glenridge, New York
Mr. and Mrs. Merle Gartrell of Memphis, Tennessee
Mr. Alfred Travassos, Jr. of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mrs. Frank Travassos of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Mr. Richard D. Green of Washington, D. C.
Mr. George Penniman of East Taunton, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Rosario Ramondetta of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mrs. Charles M. Chase, Jr. of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Andriottola of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. John M. McGrath of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mr. Wilfred Silvia of Middleborough, Massachusetts
Olga W. Dawson of Great Falls, Montana
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Laurie Thurlwell of San Francisco, California
Mrs. Irene Hawkesworth of Raleigh, North Carolina
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simmons of South Hamilton,
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Wood of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Conley of South Dartmouth,
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Legan of Sandwich, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. David Pelletier of Middleborough,
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tripp of Middleborough, Massachusetts

If anyone changes their address, will you please let us know immediately so we can keep the mailing list right up to date? Sometimes we have reports of members not getting their mail because we do not have correct addresses. If dues are not kept paid up, names will be removed from the mailing list.

Respectfully submitted,

RUTH GATES, Membership Secretary

May 1, 1980

MIDDLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
REPORT OF THE TREASURER - June, 1980

Balance June, 1979	\$7,953.00
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Received:

Admissions	401.25
Donations - Spring Clean-Up	33.00
Interest	400.92
Sales	251.01
	1,086.18
	9,039.18

Disbursed:

General Expense	33.00
Transportation - Young Mechanic	664.48
Alarm System - Including All Hook-Ups	4,558.55
Hostesses	526.00
Repairs and Building Material	1,307.82
Telephone	307.80
Purchases	83.68
Electricity	131.02
	7,612.35

Assets:

Bank Balance	1,261.52
Checking Account	165.31 (Balance)
	\$1,426.83
	9,039.18

MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance June, 1979	\$1,990.57
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Received:

Interest	127.93
Donations	185.00
From Sales of Tom Thumb and His Lady	50.00
	362.93
	(Balance) \$2,353.50

Respectfully submitted,

KENNETH E. BUTLER, Treasurer

MIDDLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
 REPORT OF THE TREASURER - June, 1980

Balance June, 1979	\$3,582.24
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Received:

Antiquarian Subscribers	183.00
Antiquarian Advertisers	562.50
Membership	1,223.00
Interest	218.14
Donations	550.00
Stock Dividends (Ruth Thomas Estate)	566.08
Quilt Show (Net)	61.10
Proceeds from Sale of Ruth Thomas Land	500.00
	<u>3,863.82</u>
	<u>7,446.06</u>

Disbursed:

Antiquarian Printing	1,457.00
Antiquarian Mailing and Expense	86.65
Dues - Bay State League	25.00
General Expense	159.57
*Donation to Museum Fund Drive	300.00
*Donation to L. B. Romaine Fund	200.00
Mailing and Postage	197.29
Printing	179.25
Safe Deposit Box	20.00
Speakers	100.00
Liability Insurance	625.00
	<u>3,349.76</u>

*(Taken from \$500.00 Donation by Florence Davis Estate)

Assets:

Bank Balance	3,499.70
Checking Account	556.43
Advance Mailing Account	40.17
	(Balance) <u>\$4,096.30</u>
	<u>7,446.06</u>

LAWRENCE B. ROMAINE MEMORIAL FUND

Balance June, 1979	\$ 303.00
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Received:

Interest	16.99
Donations - Florence Davis Estate	200.00
	<u>216.99</u>
	(Balance) <u>\$ 519.99</u>

Respectfully submitted,

KENNETH E. BUTLER, Treasurer